

## SHALL THE TEMPLE CUP SERIES BE ABOLISHED?

A Well-Defined Report That Certain Magnates Want This Done.

John M. Ward Points Out the Benefits Which Have Accrued from the Competition.

THE PUBLIC MUST BE CONSIDERED.

In Seasons When the Destination of the Pennant is a Foregone Conclusion the Rivalry for Second Place Is Keenly Maintained.

It has been said that an effort will be made this fall, at the National Baseball League meeting, to abolish entirely the annual series of contests for the Temple Cup. One Eastern and one Western magnate have already declared their intention of bringing the matter forward, and unless there is some expression of opinion on the subject it might be possible for them to secure the necessary vote.

It may not be entirely plain to Polo Ground patrons just how, under the circumstances, we are interested here at all, but it is only necessary to revert a couple of years to reach a time when we were very much concerned. No one who attended the games in this city in 1894 will ever forget the grand night fight made by the New York team that year for the position; nor will the memory of those scenes of wild enthusiasm which attended the last stirring stretch of victories on the home ground soon fade from the recollection of any spectator. And when, finally, the series for the cup came to be played, the patrons of the team in this city to the number of 25,000 at one game testified by their presence to their interest in the result. Nor did their enthusiasm die away when the season was over. They were ready to witness the presentation of the cup and as a testimonial of their appreciation of the worthy record of the team.

THE TEMPLE CUP POPULAR.

It will be well for the League presidents to recall that events and consider well whether a series which has proved so attractive to the public should be discontinued at the behest of a couple of dyspeptic associates. It is true the clubs themselves get nothing directly out of the series, for by the deed of gift of the cup the receipts all go to the players, and the club owners are groundless free of cost. As Manager Hanlon was quoted as saying the other day, "it is painful to certain dispositions to see others reaping an advantage in which they themselves do not share," and this seems to be the only explanation of their enmity.

It is true both the individuals referred to have offered reasons. One of them attributes the disputes and personal encounters, which have troubled the League since the present season, to the extreme desire of the players to get into the cup series, in order to share in the proceeds. But that is an extremely far-fetched contention, and one not at all borne out by facts. In many of the occurrences referred to the aggressors have been members of teams which, by no possible chance, had any prospect of finishing first or second. Ball players are all eager to win, and hope of accomplishment or money is a powerful incentive to their exertions. The members of a well-regulated team. It was there just as strong before the cup was introduced. But it manifested itself just as strongly as now so long as the championship alone was at stake. But it manifested itself in other and more commendable ways than by abuse of the umpire or resort to violence.

These modern sportsmen owe their origin altogether to different causes, which are really apparent to those who have closely followed the progress of the game since the past few years. To go away with the cup series would not only deprive the players of a valuable source of income, but would also take away from the spectators the present excitement that serves to excite interest, sometimes long after the pennant itself has been gained.

HE HAS FURNISHED THE GAME.

Before the institution of the Cup series there were seasons in which first place was decided comparatively early in the season, and after that for the players of other clubs there was little left to play for except personal records. And so these latter players grew dissatisfied with the series, and the public, quick to see it, lost interest and the game became less attractive. But now, with something like the win, even after first place has been lost, there is something to maintain interest for the other clubs.

The whole public today is interested in the struggle between the clubs, and the result is that those teams that have larger attendances not only on their home grounds, but wherever they go, are the ones that the public goes to see them, feeling sure that they will see a game of the highest quality. The fact that the series has been so successful in attracting every nerve for victory. At present the fight for second place has narrowed down to two teams, but until the season is over, there are several other who have a chance, and the excitement that this chance has kept up interest in the game in places where it would otherwise have been dead. And in this way, while the direct proceeds of the series go to the players, the indirect benefit of the series goes to the public, and the series is, in this way, indirectly benefited in a financial way.

But this is the more selfish point of view. There is another side to it. The public has shown its interest in the series, and it is the duty of the League to cater to the desires of the public. The crowds that have attended all the cup games during the two seasons have been enormous. In the first season, the attendance at the games was over 1,000,000. In the second season, the attendance was over 1,200,000. This is a record that no other series of games has ever reached.

When each team as Hanlon, Anson, Robinson, and others have been successful, the series and recognition of the public. The series is a success, and the public is the one that is benefited. The series is a success, and the public is the one that is benefited. The series is a success, and the public is the one that is benefited.

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## WILL REVOLUTIONIZE THE CYCLE TRADE.

One of the Largest Manufacturers to Build Chainless Wheels Next Year.

Others Are to Follow Suit and Soon There'll Be No Chains or Sprockets.

NEW MACHINES TESTED SECRETLY.

It is Said That One of Them Has Been Run 39,000 Miles Without Wear or Adjustment—Bevel Gear or Cog System to Be Used.

A change in cycle construction almost as radical and revolutionary as the safety and pneumatic tire is about to be made. The rumor about for several days past that one of the oldest, largest and most conservative bicycle building concerns in the country was to be the parent of the innovation has created a profound sensation among riders generally and cycle manufacturers particularly.

The rumor is true, and the company will put out a chainless bicycle next year, and two of the models for 1897, one for men and one for women, will be operated by bevel gears instead of the usual chain and sprocket. This is done by the company without apparent fear of loss of its own conservatism, and means much for the future of an innovation so radical as to be really revolutionary.

Mechanical engineers outside of the bicycle trade have long recognized the fact that a chain and sprocket are theoretically the poorest method of transmitting power, and have wondered that a further advancement has not been made by those who devote their ingenuity to bicycle perfection in the line of obviating the waste of power occurring through this sort of gearing. Riders have realized it emphatically through their trouble with chains stretching and breaking, rusting from dampness, clogging with dust and clinking and whizzing annoyingly.

Inventors have worked to solve the problem, and, indeed, a few bicycles were made on this plan some years since by a small concern. They did not, however, seem to meet with favor. The company making them got into financial difficulty, and every one supposed that the chainless idea had been dropped.

THE COMPANY HAS BEEN FOR SOME TIME

Several of its experimental machines have been running about Hartford for a considerable time. As the new gears did not differ in outward appearance from the bevel gears already in use and were concealed in gear cases they attracted no attention. It is said that one of the gears has been run 39,000 miles without wear or adjustment, and that several of the more recently constructed ones have been tested over 2,000 miles of the roughest road without mishap and without a sign of wear.

The great difficulties to be conquered in the perfection of the chainless bicycle were the cutting of accurate bevel gears in quality, and securing ball bearings that would withstand the strain that came from the radically different method of transmitting the power. The old chainless machines shrank up hill, not because they were increased friction in the gears, for it has been proven that the friction is less, but because the ball bearings were not properly constructed. But the cutting of the gear proved the chief difficulty.

In the heavy machinery where bevel gears have been used friction did not usually have to be considered, and so approximately accurate in the gears. In the case of the bicycle, however, the gears were to be used in a way that the power needed to operate them was so slight that little attention was given to making the teeth absolutely true. All this is different in the modern bicycle, where the gears are to be used in a way that the power needed to operate them is so great that the teeth must be absolutely true.

THE BEVEL GEAR IS TO BE USED IN A

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## This Is Assuredly the Coat of the Century.

There's only one in the country, and it's one of those things that you not only can't beat, but cannot possibly tie. And it's a coat.

Casually observed, it would strike you as a product of the workshop of the giants, made for one of the Titans to don when the humor struck him to seek the haunts of men and watch the chariots thunder to the goal. Calmer reflections would assure you that this "mammoth production" as the theatrical humorist would put it, is of more modern date, and that in all probability the heroic task of its construction was undertaken by a London tailor. Whoever built it was a brave and reckless man, one to lead the forlorn hope even in the cannon's mouth. With large and generous shears must the outer have cut, and bales of cloth must have shrunk to ill-proportioned as the work sped. And with the weary sigh of one entering on a lifelong task must the sewer have started to sew the labyrinthian seams.

Who wears it? That is a state secret unless you can recognize the rear

view of the coat.

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